

## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT <b>SOURCE's Experiences in Penal Labor Camps in VORKUTA</b>		
AREA REPORTED ON <b>VORKUTA, USSR</b>	FROM (Agency) <b>7050th AISW (USAF)</b>	
DATE OF REPORT <b>24-26 Mar 54</b>	DATE OF INFORMATION <b>Jul 49 to Jul 50</b>	EVALUATION <b>F-6</b>
PREPARED BY (Officer) <b>A. P. MAREYDT, Lt. Col., USAF</b>	SOURCE <b>217413</b>	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) <b>None</b>		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

### I. PREAMBLE:

Sentenced to serve a term of 25 years of penal labor SOURCE was interned in Russian penal labor camps 7/29 and 61 near VORKUTA (6730N/6400E) from Jul 49 to Jul 50. He worked there as a mason on new constr of coal mines and of a cement fcty. Observations were made by himself unless otherwise specified.

### II. SOURCE'S EXPERIENCES IN PENAL LABOR CAMPS IN VORKUTA:

Each of the camps 7/29 and 61 near VORKUTA had 2,500 Russian internees and 500 German PWs, all of them sentenced to 25 years of forced labor. The Germans had separate barracks to live in. The normal day began at 04.00 hours when all convicts were awakened. After a poor meal they had to leave for work at 0600 hours. They had to work until norms were attained for which ten hours were prescribed. Usually, however, the shift was prolonged, sometimes up to 16 hours. During working times no meals were served. Norms were high. A mason had to lay 2,400 bricks within eight hours, a norm which, owing to frost, was very difficult to attain. After return to camp another poor meal was served. There were eight different qualities of meals, the four higher grades being reserved for miners, the four lower ones for constr laborers. Between Sep and May temperatures varied between 15 and 40 centigrades below zero. If the temperature was lower no outside work had to be done. Food was so poor and working conditions so hard that usually 60% of the Germans were so sick that even Russians sent them to the infirmary. Health conditions among Russians were even worse. Absence of women lead to widespread onanism which together with the poor meals and hard living conditions caused tuberculosis among many Russians. Most of the rest were homosexual with all the evil consequences of that vice. Three groups of Russian convicts were known to SOURCE. 40% of them were so-called BLATNOIS, meaning of the name unknown to SOURCE, who all were criminals. Another group were the so-called SUGRE, no translation, who formed 5% of the convicts and were hated by the BLATNOIS and most of other convicts, because they cooperated with the camp administration and occupied all camp positions like teamster, cook etc. The third group were the KATTASHAN so called because until 47 they were kept in chains. They formed another 40% of the convicts and were all condemned for political reasons. They wore a number at their caps, pants, backs and elbows. All these groups kept together among each other, but one group hated the other. The hostility among the groups lead to an average of one or two murders per day. Those who could not pay their debts, particularly hated teamsters, but also other convicts were the victims. BLATNOIS used to play at cards in order to determine the man who had to kill the victim. Many of them had committed several murders and, therefore, had to serve terms as long as 75

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FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAF)	REPORT NO. 51-B-13376-H	PAGE 26 OF 26 PAGES
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years. So they did not mind another sentence of 25 years. BLATNOIS did everything to avoid going to work. Most of them were easily recognized by the missing of two fingers of their left hands which they had lost by self-mutilation. Once they went on strike and refused to leave their barracks. The inmates of one barrack remained stubborn in spite of menacing orders by the camp guards. So the barrack was encircled by MVD troops so that nobody had access to any food. After five days the BLATNOIS surrendered, but when they came out the guards shot at them, and 19 of them were killed.

In the VORKUTA transit camp through which SOURCE passed between 4 and 18 Oct 49 SOURCE saw an alleged US Colonel in a worn US uniform without any signs of rank. He had dark blond hair and was a stout man, about 1.75m tall, of 45-50 years. He talked English with the German Lt General SCHARTZ, who later was transferred to REVDA (5649N/5958E). SCHARTZ, who also was in SOURCE's camp in REVDA, told him that the alleged US Col had explained that he had been unjustly arrested by the Russians in the Soviet sector of VIENNA (4812N/1622E) and that later he had been sentenced to 25 years of forced labor for espionage. SCHARTZ, who had had long conversations with this man, told SOURCE that he did not believe in his identity as a US Colonel, but that he regarded him as an informer who only posed as an American. SOURCE himself never talked to the alleged Colonel and rarely saw him.

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